(b) if so, the details thereof with reasons for such landslide;

(c) whether incidents of landslide are becoming regular feature in hilly areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof State-wise during 1992 and 1993 upto July;

(e) whether Government propose to take some measures to check such incidents in future to avert human casualties and damage to properties; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the resons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Reduction in excise duty on butter

4406. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the excise duty on table butter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact on retail price of the butter;

(d) whether the price of Amul butter is more than Vijaya and Aarey butter; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Butter has been fully exempted from payment of excise duty with effect from 25-7-1991 *vide* Government Notification No. 16/91-CE, dated 25th July, 1991.

(c) The sale price of butter depends on the cost of production which in turn is determined by a number of factors like purchase price or milk and cost of other input which vary from place to place.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The price of Amul butter is fixed in order to provide a remunerative price to the co-operative milk producers of Gujarat.

Foreign visits of Agricultural Minister

4407. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign visits made by the Ministers of Agriculture during 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) the purpose of these visits; and

(c) the number of staff members who accompanied them during these visits and expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Cultivation of seedless grapes

4408. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high yielding seedless grapes popular among grape-growers of Maharashtra is now grown in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have conducted the soil test to explore the other areas suitable for the cultivation of seedless grapes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two varieties from Maharashtra namely Sonoka Tasa-Ganesh and Sharad seedless are performing well in Coimbatore conditions and likely to be expanded in other area of Tamil Nadu. Besides this Thompson seedless variety grown in Maharashtra and other parts of the country is also being grown in Tamil Nadu.

(c) No systematic soil testing have been undertaken to assess the areawise suitability for the grape cultivation in Tamil Nadu.

Production of Tobacco

4409. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: